

**PATENT**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: Not yet assigned – 371 of PCT/IB00/01393  
Filing Date: Not yet assigned  
Applicant: NG, et al.  
Title: NOVEL HEV ANTIGENIC PEPTIDE AND METHODS  
Attorney Docket: 8737-000010

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Box PCT  
Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Applicants herewith submit this Preliminary Amendment to the application filed herewith, for consideration prior to the calculation of the filing fee, as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend Claims 8, 12 – 16, 20, and 24 in accordance with the following rewritten claims in clean form. Applicant includes herewith an Attachment for Claim Amendments showing a marked up version of each amended claim.

8. (AMENDED) A vector containing the nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 5, characterized in that the vector is capable of expressing the nucleic acid molecule upon introduction into an appropriate host cell or microorganism.